The Ministery has set up an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Valiathan to study the functioning of AIIMS and to make recommendations for further development of the Institute.

Community Health Centres in Madhya Pradesh

†1864. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that much publicized "National Rural Health Mission" programme seems to be successful on papers only and it has made no impact on health centres located in the remotest rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that aversion/unwillingness of doctors towards villages is one of the main reasons behind failure of the above programme;

(c) whether Government propose to provide lump-sum financial assistance to the State Government for Community Health Centres as per Indian public health standards under above programme; and

(d) if so, the details of such community health centres proposed for Madhya Pradesh alongwith the details regarding funds provided/sanctioned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) No, Sir. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is being implemented all over the country. The Mission seeks to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The Mission was launched on 12th April 2005. The first year of Mission is the preparatory phase during which the institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the Mission have been laid down. At the same time, a number of activities under the umbrella framework of NRHM has been implemented.

(b) Availability of manpower is rural areas is a challenge before the NRHM. The various states have taken several initiatives to over come the shortage of doctors in rural areas including compulsory rural/difficult area posting as prerequisite for admission to PG courses, rational posting policies and compulsory rotation of doctors on completion of prescribed tenure, Contractual appointment of doctors etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Under the NRHM, support for improving the physical infrastructure including augmenting the manpower is a core strategy. All the CHCs are proposed to be upgraded to the level of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). The implementation Framework of the Mission envisages facility survey of all CHCs and detailed estimation of costing of the upgradation proposal. Simultaneously, initiatives for augmenting the available manpower as per IPHS are also to be undertaken. The funds required for the upgradation project is proposed to be made available to the states in phases.

(d) During 2005-06, a total amount of Rs. 38.40 crore was released to the state of Madhya Pradesh for upgradation of 192 CHCs.

During 2006-07, total amount of Rs. 7.4 crore was released to the state of Madhya Pradesh for upgradation of 37 CHCs.

Bird flu vaccine

1865. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian scientists have developed a vaccine for bird flu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether clinical tests have been carried out and the targeted date for release in the market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) As per information received from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian scientists have developed a poultry vaccine for bird flu. The killed vaccine has been developed using H5N1 field strains virus isolated from recent outbreaks in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Experimental studies were conducted to assess its efficacy and potency. This vaccine gave a good protective antibody titre. Tests have been conducted in the laboratory and experimental batches of this vaccine have been produced in the laboratory. Steps have been initiated to make the availability of the indigenous poultry vaccine and to transfer the technology of vaccine production to those interested in commercial production having containment conditions required for handling such virus.

There is no vaccine for human cases of Avian Influenza [bird flu].